

Detailed Action

Examiners Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Steven Greenfield on 10-16-2003. The changes made below are underlined.

The Claims are amended as follows:

-- 1. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating an ion optic device comprising:

shaping a ceramic material such that the ceramic material has a cavity, the ceramic material being at least a portion of the ion optic device;

covering at least a portion of the cavity with at least one material selected from a group consisting of a conductive material and a resistive material and removing a portion of the covering material from said cavity; and

wherein shaping the ceramic material comprises providing the cavity being substantially shaped as a cylindrical bore in the ceramic material; and

wherein removing a portion of the covering material comprises removing at least two portions of the covering material on opposing surfaces of the interior of the bore to create at least two separate opposing areas of covering material. --

--6. (currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein removing a portion of the covering material comprises removing at least one portion of the covering material circumscribing the interior perimeter of the cavity to create at least two substantially parallel bands of conductivity on an inner surface of the cavity. --

--9 (currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein shaping the ceramic material comprises providing a blind end in the cavity; and

wherein covering at least a portion of the shaped ceramic material with at least one covering material comprises covering at least a portion of the blind end in the interior of the cavity with a conductive material. --

Claim 5 is cancelled.

Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

2. Amended Claims 1, and 10 are allowed because Prior Art fails to show a method of fabricating an ion optic device comprised of shaping a cylindrical bore in a ceramic material to provide a cavity, coating the interior of the cavity with conductive material and removing portions of the coating to provide separate conductive regions in the cavity.

Claims 3, 4, and 17 are allowed because they are dependent upon allowed amended Claims 1, and 10.

Prior Art does not specifically disclose shaping a cylindrical bore in a ceramic, coating the interior, and removing portions of the coating to provide separate conductive regions in the interior of the cylindrical bore. The method of fabricating an ion optic device by shaping a cylindrical bore in a ceramic material to provide a cavity, coating the interior of the cavity with conductive material and removing portions of the coating to provide separate conductive regions in the cavity is patentable.

3. Claim 19 is allowed because Prior Art fails to show a ceramic ion optic device having a cavity with a blind end coated with conductive material, and providing separate bands of conductive material circumscribing the interior of the cavity. An ion optic device having a cavity with a blind end coated with conductive material and separate bands of conductive material circumscribing the cavity is patentable.

Claims 6-9, 15, 16, 18 and 20 are allowed because they are dependent upon allowed amended Claim 19.

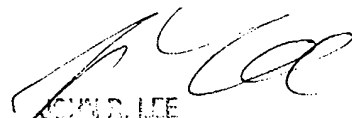
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Phillip Johnston whose telephone number is (703) 305-7022. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor John Lee can be reached at (703) 308-4116. The fax phone numbers are (703) 872-9318 for regular response activity, and (703) 872-9319 for after-final responses. In addition the customer service fax number is (703) 872- 9317.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 0956.

PJ
October 17, 2003


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